

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	File No. EB-03-IH-0245
)	File No. EB-03-IH-0550
)	Acct. No. 200332080014
Verizon Telephone Companies, Inc.)	FRN No. 0008988438

ORDER

Adopted: July 23, 2004

Released: July 27, 2004

By the Commission:

1. In this Order, we adopt a Consent Decree terminating investigations into possible violations by the Verizon telephone companies (“Verizon”) of section 272 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. § 272, and sections 32.27 and 53.203 of the Commission’s rules, 47 C.F.R. §§ 32.27, 53.203. The investigations concern Verizon’s compliance with certain structural, transactional, and nondiscrimination safeguards applicable to transactions between Verizon’s Bell Operating Companies and its other incumbent local exchange carriers, on the one hand, and Verizon’s separate in-region, interLATA affiliates established pursuant to section 272 of the Act, on the other.¹

2. The Commission and Verizon have negotiated the terms of a Consent Decree that would terminate the Commission’s investigations. A copy of the Consent Decree is attached hereto and is incorporated by reference.

3. We have reviewed the terms of the Consent Decree and evaluated the facts before us. We believe that the public interest would be served by approving the Consent Decree and terminating the investigations.

4. Based on the record before us, and in the absence of material new evidence relating to this matter, we conclude that there are no substantial and material questions of fact as to whether Verizon possesses the basic qualifications, including its character qualifications, to hold or obtain any FCC licenses or authorizations.

5. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to sections 4(i), 220(d), and 503(b) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 154(i), 220(d), 503(b), that the Consent Decree incorporated by reference in and attached to this order, is hereby ADOPTED.

6. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Secretary SHALL SIGN the Consent Decree on behalf of the Commission.

¹See *Verizon Telephone Companies, Inc.*, Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture, 18 FCC Rcd 18,796 (2003).

7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above captioned investigations ARE TERMINATED and the Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture IS CANCELLED.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary